

Calais Roads Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2013
Calais Town Office 8:30 pm to 9:54 pm
Approved July 11, 2013

Committee members present (clockwise around the table from the Chair): J.C. Myers (Chair), Peter Harvey (Secretary), Stephanie Kaplan (Vice Chair), Barbara Weedon, Conrad Smith, & Doug Lilley.

Absent: Trey Martin and Craig Line

Also in attendance: Scott Bassage (Selectboard member), Noreen Bryan

**Roads Committee Meeting Agenda for 6/27/13:
(held at Calais Town Offices 8:30 pm)**

[8:30 pm] Call to order; decide whether to accept minutes for 6/11/13 meeting

- Noreen Bryan introduced herself saying that she was here representing herself, not the Calais Lakes, Ponds, & Streams Committee, of which she is a member.
- Minutes
 - Addition - Trey had emailed everyone a paragraph that he asked to replace the one in the unapproved minutes.
 - Addition - Stephanie had emailed everyone two sentences that she asked to be added at the end of the minutes about her also representing the Conservation Commission as well as herself. [The battery of my digital recorder had died and not recorded her statement.]
 - Addition - Peter asked to add to Scott's paragraph that Scott recommend that we listen to an interview on line with East Montpelier Road Commissioner Mike Garand at rublestripvermont.com.
 - Deletion - Barbara recommended that we edit out a quote from J. C.
 - Edit - Barbara also recommended that Doug's statement be edited for clarity, but we ended leaving it.
 - Correction - J. C. advised that what he said was "tree preservationist" not "true preservationist."
- The minutes were accepted with the above changes 6-0.

- Discussion of how meeting minutes will be presented going forward: a shorter format (as proposed by J.C.) with essential info and decisions and/or an annotated transcript a la Peter Harvey.

- Peter told the Committee again this evening that he is going to cover the Roads Committee Meetings the same way that he has covered the Selectboard and School Board meetings, and then use that as a base to write up shorter minutes of the meetings, separate from his "annotated notes." Peter will do both again and the discussion will be continued at the next meeting.
- There was some discussion about the length and detail of Peter's Annotated Minutes.

- Peter said that he will give a CD of the audio of each meeting to the Town Clerk.

- Public input - J.C. asked Noreen if she would like to tell us why she came to this evening's meeting:

- She came this evening because she had read about it in FPF
- She applauds what we are doing because roads [issues] are so hard.
- She told us that probably the number one pollutant to our water is the run off from our roads. She told the Committee that she hadn't seen that brought up in Peter's FPF Annotated Notes of our first meeting.
- She agreed with many of the Committee that "one set of rules probably doesn't fit all situations."
- Noreen told us that Better Back Roads was created to help protect the waters of the state of Vermont. Better Back Roads does not encourage widening the roads, but it does provoke ditching.
- Noreen recommended that we talk to the people in Orange about their success with Better Back Roads.

Conrad responded saying that water quality is important, but it's not the end all of everything as Better Back Roads seems to direct.

Noreen said that sometimes water quality should be number one, but it depends on the situation. Other times there may be more important things.

[9:00 pm] Presentation of each member's choice of five important topics/projects to be undertaken by the Roads Committee. Recording [on paper] of those topics/projects, eliminating duplicates.

- J. C. wrote on 4 pages of a large newsprint pad
- The discussion moved toward focusing more on topics, subject recommendations, documents that we will pass on to the Selectboard than process, how to do things.
- A list of ideas thrown out. More detailed discussion later
 - Alternate [out of the box] methods of ditching
 - Maintenance of roads
 - Reconstruction of roads
 - GPS on every road department vehicle
 - Increase current 4 [10 hour] day week to 5 [8 hour] day week for road crew
 - Road crew supervision
 - Reduce speed limits
 - Police enforcement of speed limits
 - Management systems
 - Road types & uses inventory/category/designation/characteristics/how they should be
 - it is not so much whether to have narrower shaded roads, because there is a very strong sentiment for that, but how to do that with roads that function for us
 - alternative methods for methods for maintenance that satisfies the spirit of the standards

- Do we leave the problems or restore what we have lost
- Identify different types of multiple users and identify their needs
- explain clearly the state road requirement/standards
- \$151,000 is our yearly appropriation from the Legislature by mileage, no strings attached
- State grants and FEMA funds have requirements and strings
- Report/explain appropriations and grants in the Annual Town Report
- Agency of Natural Resources stream alterations
- Recommendations to adopt a management system
- Ride with the Road Crew to see what they do
- How does the Road Crew account for the work
- Establish job descriptions
- Long term [5 to 10 year] capital equipment and road plan
- Help the Selectboard understand and implement State guide lines
- Calais Standards vs State Standards
- Development Review Board for Roads based on a plan
- Road Commissioner & Road Foreman are two different jobs. What are the jobs and what are the objective criteria for success? Does the Town need to hire a part time roads manager?
- Setting road speeds isn't going to work. We need to redesign roads for the speeds & safety we want.
- Resurvey the roads to find out where the original road started out
- Re-education about how to drive differently on unpaved country roads
- Cautious about the tail wagging the dog. Do we push the way the roads are built or do the roads push the way we drive.
- Devise a record system that the road crew can work with and will use, Don Singleton recorded work done on a paper wall map.
- Road management committee
- Develop a road dispute resolution process with the Selectboard, Road Commissioner, & residents to correct problems
- Include storm water runoff with other goals
- J.C. took the list home to collated/consolidated it. He will email it out to us over the weekend.

9:43 pm - **Next steps and adjourn** - We decided to meet again in two weeks, Thursday, July 11th, 8:30 pm at the Town Office to form the subcommittees.

We set our regular monthly meeting to be the 8:30 second Thursday

Special meetings need to be warned on the: Town Website, Town Office, Front Porch Forum

Maps: maps were handed out - (10) 24 X 36" East Montpelier Emergency Services Map of Calais, 2010 maps ; (10) 36 X 36" Calais Structure Inventory, 2013 maps; (10) 11 X 17" Total Traveled Highways Chart \$97.40. Conrad made a motion to approve the bill. It was seconded and approved 8-0.

There was a brief discussion about the open meeting law and the recordings of the meeting on FPF.

9:54 the meeting adjourned

Topics not addressed this evening:

- **Review of the Select Board Charge for the Committee: do our topics/projects meet that charge? If not, do we add in all the SB's items to our list, or present an alternate list for SB approval?**
- **Assignment of Committee roles.**

Submitted by Peter Harvey Secretary